Representation for inclusion of Tamang Community in the List of Scheduled Tribes

1082. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for the incorporation of Tamang Community from Nepalis in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an Act of Parliament as laid down in Article 342(2) of the Constitution.

Felling of Trees in Darjeeling

1083. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the last few years massive felling of trees in Darjeeling has greatly damaged the ecological balance of the region; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to recover the health of the environment and for the preservation and conservation of flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No massive felling of trees has been reported.

(b) Does not arise. However, afforestation is carried out on degraded areas every year.

Special subsidies in Bank Loan for opening Industries

1084. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are provisions of special subsidies in bank loans by Government for opening industries in certain areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise .

Self Sufficiency in Homoeopathic Medicines

1085. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent to which the indigenous industry is self-sufficient and capable to manufacture homoeopathic medicines such as mother tincture, dilutions, bio-chemic tablets; and

(b) whether our country is exporting any of the above products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):

(a) and (b) No modern industry can really be self-sufficient in the present day world economy, which itself is changing very fast and the trend increasingly is towards integration of national economics with the global economy and inter-dependence of industry cutting across national frontiers.

The homoeopathic industry in the country imports and also exports different items, as there is no ban on their imports or exports under the current policy.